

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for her patience and diligence during a telephonic interview with Applicant's attorney on January 16, 2002. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for her January 24, 2002 telephone call to Applicant's attorney.

Applicant has amended claim 1, as agreed by the Examiner and Applicant's attorney during the January 16, 2002 telephonic interview and January 24, 2002 telephone call, in order to bring it into condition for allowance. New claims 41 and 42 have been added by Applicant and are believed to be in agreement with the Examiner's comments with respect to claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-3, 6, 9-13 and 41-42 of the present application are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and allowance of all claims at an early date is respectfully requested.

In the event that this case is not now considered to be entirely in condition for allowance, Applicant's attorney respectfully requests an interview with the Examiner handling the present patent application

If it should be determined, for any reason, that an insufficient fee has been paid, please charge any insufficiency to Deposit Account No. 03-3975 in order to ensure entry, consideration and allowance of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. A liquid-handling system for transferring liquid back and forth from at least one first container to at least one second container, comprising:

a first container;

a second container;

a housing encasing the first container in a pressure-tight manner;

a capillary tube having predetermined length and a predetermined internal diameter, wherein a first end of the tube is positioned near the bottom of the first container, wherein the tube extends through the housing, terminating in a second end positioned at or above the second container; [and,]

a second capillary tube having predetermined length and a predetermined internal diameter, wherein a first end of the tube is positioned near the bottom of the first container, wherein the tube extends through the housing, terminating in a second end positioned at or above a waste container; and,

a computer-controlled pressure altering device, attached to the housing in a pressure tight manner, that changes the pressure within the housing relative to the pressure outside the housing;

wherein the pressure-altering device applies a pressure differential that causes liquid contained in either the first container or the second container to be transferred through the capillary tube; and

whereby liquids [solutions] are [deposited and] removed from the first container by the second capillary tube [in either direction from a container having at least two capillaries,

including the deposit of two or more solutions to be mixed and removal of a resulting mixture by an additional capillary].